

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE ORNITHOLOGY OF CASHMERE.

By

HUGH WHISTLER, F.Z.S., INDIAN POLICE.

In spite of the number of ornithologists and sportsmen who have visited Cashmere, and of the number of specimens illustrative of the ornithology of Cashmere which are to be found in various museums and collections, no complete account of the avifauna of the country has been published. There is indeed comparatively little on record at all in print regarding this most interesting of countries to the naturalist. Under these circumstances it appears to me worth while to record some notes made in Srinagar during a short stay of about six weeks, in the hope that they may be of value to anyone who later on has time and the opportunity to fill up this conspicuous gap in our knowledge of Asiatic ornithology.

My trip was undertaken at the shortest notice and without any previous intention, being solely due to the opportunity afforded by the late difficulty in securing steam ship accommodation owing to which an interval had to elapse between the commencement of a period of leave and my departure for England.

I left Rawalpindi by motor on the 1st April (1920) and arrived at Kohala, the first point in the territory of Cashmere State, on the afternoon of the same day; that night was spent at Garhi, the journey being resumed early next morning, so that I reached Srinagar about 4 p.m. on the 2nd April. I remained at Srinagar until May 12th: when I started down again by motor and reached Kohala about 8 p.m. that night. A few observations were made during the course of these journeys along the motor road and they have been included in the following notes; otherwise all records refer to the immediate neighbourhood of Srinagar.

The distance between Rawalpindi and Srinagar by road is nearly 200 miles. From the moment of entering Cashmere territory at Kohala the road follows the course of the Jhelum river, running alongside of it at varying heights through a vast belt of mountains as far as Baramullah, where the road leaves the mountain barrier most abruptly and emerges into the Happy Valley. Here the character of the country changes with almost equal suddenness. The mountain scenery, familiar to all travellers in the Outer Himalayas, gives place to a wide plain whose salient features are reminiscent of the plains of Northern France and Holland or of the flat cultivation of Suffolk and Essex. For mile upon mile the road passes through long lines of poplars, closely planted and growing to a great height. All about the river and the numerous tributary channels and dykes grow willows, singly and in plantations; clumps of mulberry trees are on all sides and here and there stand the giant chenar trees, most wonderful of all.

Srinagar itself is situated at an altitude of about 5,000 feet above sea level, and is built on the River Jhelum. The native city is down stream and covers a wide area on both banks of the river, connected by seven bridges, of which the lowest had been washed away some months before my visit. Above the native city stands the European quarter and the shops which cater for visitors. Here good houses and pleasant gardens are diversified by wide expanses of turf with fine trees, in marked contrast to the crowded and filthy city.

North of the European quarter stands the Takht-i-Suleman, a bare rocky hill surmounted by an ancient temple, and rising to a height of over 6,200 feet. Behind the Takht lies a range of mountains that reach a still greater height and form part of the mountain ring which entirely surrounds the Happy Valley. At the foot of the Takht and the mountains behind it spreads the famous Dhal lake; while the area between the city and the lake is an intricate maze of gardens, orchards, and waterways. All visitors to Srinagar are expected to climb the Takht. From it a wonderful view is obtained and the climber is able to appreciate to the full the circumstances of the vale of Cashmere; it lies before

him as a wide plain surrounded by a complete circle of snows, and traversed by the tortuous course of the Jhelum river. The Dhal lake at his feet, the Woolar lake in the distance, and the numerous smaller lakes and patches of flood or irrigation water, all tend to give the impression that the plain is waterlogged,—almost a gigantic marsh.

In comparison with the plains of India or the various hill stations, Srinagar has an atmosphere predominantly English; the clean fresh air, the gardens and orchards, and the green level turf all contribute to this impression, which is heightened by the Avifauna. The majority of the common birds are of types familiar to the Englishman. The loud "Jack" of the Daws and the song of Tickell's Ouzel, the call of the Wryneck and the twitter of Goldfinches, all recall familiar sounds of the English countryside. Swallows, Kingfishers, and Sparrows are abundant. Flocks of Starlings feed busily on the lawns. And if the abundance of Kites, Hoopoes, Bee-eaters, and Golden Orioles introduces an element that is not English, it is after all as much South European as Asiatic.

The spring of 1920 was an unusually late and cold one. In fact the residents of the place told me everything might be considered at least three weeks later than usual. To this fact may be attributed the small number of nests found. The majority of the common birds were just beginning to lay eggs at the date of my departure.

Finally I should like to acknowledge with gratitude the great assistance rendered to me by Miss G. Robinson in the study of the birds of Cashmere. I have also to thank Dr. Hartert and Dr. C. B. Ticehurst for their assistance in identifying many of the skins collected.

The Jungle Crow—*Corvus coronoides intermedius*, Adams.

While the Jungle Crow was abundant all along the country from Kohala to Baramullah, it proved to be comparatively scarce in the plain of Srinagar which is not sufficiently wooded for its requirements. Only a few individuals were seen actually in Srinagar.

The House Crow—*Corvus splendens*, Vieill.

Observed in small numbers in Srinagar and about the road, but by no means as common as the next species or as in the plains of the Punjab.

The Jackdaw—*Colæus monedula collaris* (Drummond).

On the upward journey of April 1st a small party of Jackdaws was first observed at Domel, 21 miles from Kohala, and some more were seen next day about the 68th mile. After that the species became very numerous and one of the most familiar of the objects along the roadside. On the return journey of May 12th the Jackdaw was common all along the road as far as Baramullah but was not observed below Uri.

In Srinagar it was the most common and noticeable of all the birds and with the well known call greatly contributed to the English atmosphere of the place; it breeds in the hollow Chenar trees, in the roofs of the houses and in holes of walls and bridges, being just as impudent and tame, as is *Corvus splendens* in the plains.

On my first arrival I was much struck by the stream of Jackdaws which poured into Srinagar in the evenings and left again about sunrise. These flights continued throughout my stay but appeared to diminish in number, being latterly perhaps composed of non-breeding birds; as far as I could ascertain these flights roosted in the beds of willow trees which border all the waterways between the city and Dhal lake.

Nidification was in full swing by about the middle of April and from that time onward the birds were to be seen in the day time mostly in pairs sitting about side by side in the vicinity of their nests; so that a huge Chenar tree, hollow with age, would be seen to hold a dozen or more birds, sitting sedately pair by pair, each near the hole that held its nest.

The first eggs, two incomplete clutches of 3 and 2 respectively, were obtained on May 8th, but when I examined a large number of nests in a colony about some buildings on May 10th most of them were either unfinished or empty, although two nests contained clutches of 5 eggs, all fresh. There was of course a good deal of variation according to site in the size of the nests, many of them being in holes under the rafters and eaves which previously I should have considered too small for them to use. The nests were built of the usual miscellaneous materials, sticks and thorny twigs with a lining of dirty wool, rags, and hair; indeed I found this particular colony by following up the individual pairs which were tearing the wool off a half decomposed sheepskin hung up in the fork of a tree.

The Yellow-billed Blue Magpie—*Urocissa flavirostris* (Blyth).

On April 2nd two or three individuals were seen in the hills between Naushehrah (mile 87) and Baramullah.

The Black-throated Jay—*Laletris lanceolatus*, (Vig.).

On 12th May a pair were seen on the road a short distance below Baramullah.

The Cashmere Great Tit—*Parus major cashmirensis* (Hartert).

This race of the Great Tit was abundant on the Srinagar plain and at my first arrival was still commonly met with in parties, although the breeding song was already to be heard.

On April 28th a bird was seen carrying nesting material into a hole in the trunk of a mulberry tree and seven fresh eggs were taken from this nest when it was opened up on May 11th. The female was caught on the eggs and contained an eighth egg in the oviduct. The nest hole was interiorly large and contained three or four handfuls of roots, dry grass, bents, and a few rags, with a thick lining of hair and wool. On the same day a single egg was found in another nest hole, containing but little material, in a hole in the trunk of a fruit tree.

A series collected yield the following measurements:—

	Bill from skull.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
4 Males ..	12·5—13	73·5—76	60·5—65·5	19—21 mm.
8 Females..	12 —13	68·5—72·5	56·5—61	18·5—20 mm.

The clutch of seven eggs measure 18—18·5 mm. in length and 14—14·5 mm. in width.

The Crested Cole Tit—*Parus melanolophus* Vig.

A flock was seen on the Bund on April 7th and 11th and by the Dhal lake on April 14th; a single bird was seen by the temple of the Takht-i-Suliman on April 17th and a pair in the small pine wood below it on April 19th.

The Fire-cap—*Cephalopyrus flammiceps* (Burton).

This species was observed on several dates between April 19th and May 9th. On every occasion, with the exception of the finding of a solitary male in the bushes about a small mountain stream on April 29th, the birds were in flocks which were feeding in willow trees, working the blossoms, catkins, or old seed cases after the manner of Redpolls and indulging in the same variety of acrobatic postures. They were not at all shy, and appeared in the willows even of the most frequented localities such as the Bund.

The Western Streaked Laughing Thrush—*Trochalopteron lineatum* (Vig.).

This Laughing Thrush is of course common on the hillsides of Cashmere but it was interesting to note, in view of Whitehead's remarks on its partial migration in winter to the orchards of Kohat (*Ibis*. 1909), that while it was seen occasionally on my first arrival in the gardens of Srinagar and about the edges of the Dhal lake, it appeared to have disappeared about the middle of April and had doubtless returned to the hillsides. No specimens were obtained so it is impossible to be certain of the sub-species to which the birds should be attributed.

The White-eye—*Zosterops palpebrosa* (Temm.).

A flock of White-eyes were seen in a willow grove by the Dhal lake on April 25th but the species was otherwise not observed in Srinagar. On the road up I only noticed a single flock at Gahri on April 2nd, although on the return journey of May 12th the species appeared common all along the lower part of the road below Baramullah.

The White-cheeked Bulbul—*Pycnonotus leucogenys* (Gray).

The White-cheeked Bulbul was abundant throughout the road from Kohala to Srinagar and in Srinagar it is one of the most characteristic and noticeable of the birds. With its bright cheeky behaviour, quaintly cocked crest, and pleasant notes, it is a universal favourite, catching the eye even of the most unobservant, as it enters boats and houses, or hops about the feet of picnic parties in search of stray scraps and greedily eating the pieces of bread and cake thrown to it. The first nest, with three fresh eggs was found on May 10th; it was a large but shallow cup, loosely constructed with a foundation of dry grasses and fibres, followed by a layer of the same materials mixed with fine strips of bark; the lining was a thick layer of fine roots. It was placed some 10 to 15 feet from the ground on the thick stem of a large vine growing against a roadside poplar.

The Red vented Bulbul—*Pycnonotus hæmorrhous* (subs. ?).

One was seen at Garhi on April 1st.

The Himalayan Black Bulbul—*Hypsipetes psaroides*, Vig.

Observed fairly commonly, firstly in small parties, and after the beginning of May in pairs, both in Srinagar and about the greater portion of the road.

The Wall Creeper—*Tichodroma muraria* (L.)

On April 17th a Wall Creeper was seen climbing about the huge stones of the temple on the summit of the Takht-i-Suliman (6263 feet).

The Himalayan Tree Creeper—*Certhia himalayana*, Vig.

A single Tree Creeper was seen with a large hunting party of *Phylloscopi* in the pine wood on the Takht-i-Suliman on April 19th.

The Himalayan Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes neglectus* Brooks.

One was seen in the ruined monastery of Pari Mahal on April 15th.

The Indian Ashy Drongo—*Dicrurus leucophoeus longicaudatus* (Hay.)

The Black Drongo—*Dicrurus ater* (Herm.).

No Drongo was seen on the journey up or in Srinagar until April 11th when a pair were seen at Gupkar: one or two others were seen in May. These were probably all *D. longicaudatus*. On the return journey however Drongos were common all along the road both in the Happy Valley and throughout the hilly portion of the road. Although these two species are not in my opinion easy to discriminate in the field, especially when seen from a motor, I think that the birds seen above Baramullah were all *Dicrurus longicaudatus*, but that below Baramullah they were largely replaced by *D. ater*.

The Great Reed-warbler—*Acrocephalus stentorea brunnescens* (Jerd.).

On my first visit to the Dhal lake on April 8th the young growth of the reed beds was just commencing to appear above the surface of the water and the only Reed-warbler seen was a single bird creeping about a line of osiers. I first heard the song on April 21st, by which date the reeds were halfgrown and the species had apparently become common and after that the birds were to be heard or seen in every patch of suitable cover on the lake. The song is not easily described; it is very loud and variable, harsh and metallic in tone for the most part, but interspersed with pleasant bars. Like all the members of the genus the Great Reed-warbler is a skulker and appears to prefer to move about the reeds close to the surface of the water, but it is certainly not shy and allows a close

approach and on occasion sings from the summit of some exposed pole or branch. Owing to the lateness of the season it did not appear worth while searching for nests before my departure.

The Brown Bush-warbler—*Horeites pallidus*, Brooks.

A male was shot near Garhi on April 2nd as it was creeping about in some bushes by the roadside.

The Indian Lesser White-throat *Sylvia curruca affinis*, Blyth.

Not observed before April 11th: but from that date onwards until my departure on May 12 small numbers seemed to be passing through Srinagar to the breeding quarters. At the same time however, at least as early as April 20th the lower slopes of the range of hills just behind Srinagar were tenanted by birds which from their behaviour, singing courting and quarrelling, appeared to have reached their breeding quarters and were preparing to nest. Many old nests seen in bushes on these hill sides were probably of this species.

Although I have assigned these birds to *Sylvia curruca affinis* it is with some hesitation. It is well known that some race of Lesser White-throat breeds in Cashmere in considerable numbers, and in the literature of the subject they are always called *Sylvia affinis* but the breeding range of this race as given in the Vogel Pal: Fauna does not include Cashmere, and the only specimen that I obtained, which was killed by accident, proved on comparison to be an example of Hume's White-throat, *Sylvia althoea*. It was unfortunate that no series was obtained, but at the time I was under the impression that there was no doubt regarding the identity of the Cashmere breeding race, and I was unwilling to devote any of the short time at my disposal to collecting so common a bird.

The Least White-throat—*Sylvia curruca minula*, Hume.

A White-throat seen but unfortunately not procured on a stony hillside, about 6,000 feet, on April 27th was attributed to this race: it was doubtless on passage.

Hume's White-throat—*Sylvia althoea*, Hume.

As mentioned above, a male was obtained on 24th April on the hillside above Pendreathan about 6,000 feet.

The Siberian Chiff Chaff—*Phylloscopus collybita tristis*, Blyth.

The Siberian Chiff Chaff was passing through Srinagar throughout the whole of the six weeks that I was there. The greatest rush appeared to occur roughly during the 10 days from the 13th to the 22nd of April, but the species was sufficiently common on most days. It was very partial to the lines of osiers in the Dhal lake, in addition to being found in the ordinary haunts of the other Willow-wrens.

The Yellow browed Willow-wren—*Phylloscopus inornatus humei* (Brooks).

This species, like the last, was passing through Srinagar during the whole of my stay, and the two together must have included the vast majority of the migrating Willow-wrens which was one of the marked features of the Avifauna. The period of their greatest abundance was perhaps a few days later than in the case of *P. c. tristis*.

The Olivaceous Willow-wren—*Phylloscopus griseolus* (Blyth.)

This Willow-wren passed through Srinagar on its spring migration in small numbers and was noted by me on various dates from April 19th until May 10th. Unlike the vast majority of the migrating Phylloscopi, which congregated in the willow groves that are so widespread a feature of Srinagar, this bird was chiefly found singly or in small parties in open ground on hill-sides amongst the scrub and low bushes of the boulder-strewn slopes.

The Large Crowned Willow-wren—*Phylloscopus occipitalis occipitalis* (Blyth.)

This species was not noticed until April 26th but from that date onwards until my departure, it was met with in small numbers amongst the rush of migrating willow-wrens.

The Greenish Willow-wren—*Phylloscopus nitidus viridanus*: Blyth.

This Willow wren was common on passage during the second week of May when two specimens were preserved. It was also I believe present a week or two earlier.

The Himalayan Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris humin*, Brooks.

On the upward journey of April 2nd Hume's Starling was first observed at the 108th mile and became gradually commoner along the road side as we drew nearer to Srinagar. In Srinagar itself the bird was most abundant and was still in large flocks, although the yellow bill of the breeding plumage had been assumed and the males were in song and some individuals were already at their nesting holes. I did not however secure any eggs before my departure. No Starlings were seen below Srinagar on the return journey.

The song is of the usual Starling character but not so loud as that of the typical race: whilst it is uttered the wings are frequently flirited in the manner of the latter. I could detect no special characteristic in the habits of this race in Srinagar: the main stronghold of the birds was in the extensive groves of pollarded willows in the holes of which they were obviously intending to breed, but pairs were tenanting Chenar and other trees in the vicinity of the houses, although I did not actually observe any attempt at occupying any holes under eaves or in walls.

A series of 6 males and 4 females was collected. Their measurements are as follows in millimetres:—

	Bill f. skull.	Bill f. nostril.	Breadth at nostril.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
Males	29—31·5	17—19·5	7—7·5	116—121	56—59	29·5—31·5
Females	27·5—29·5	17—18·5	7—7·5	112·5—119	54—57·5	29·5—31

The adult female differs from the adult male in having the body feathers shorter and broader so that on the mantle, scapulars, back and upper tail coverts the buff tips are less completely worn away and those parts remain more spotted. The metallic gloss is less brilliant, and less extensive on the secondaries and greater coverts. The first summer birds, the males amongst which were certainly about to breed from the size of the testes, differ from the adults in the markedly less brilliant gloss, and the presence of the buff spots of the winter plumage, but partly worn away, which remain throughout the plumage, and on the abdomen and under tail coverts still largely conceal the black. In the first winter plumage of this race the spots are so large that the abdomen appears almost white, (see *Ibis*. 1909, 57).

In this race the colour of the soft parts appears somewhat variable. In the adult male the iris is dark brown; mouth livid fleshy, bill bright yellow, horny steel colour at base of lower mandible, nostril area horn colour; feet salmon brown, tarsus darker, claws dusky horn darker toward tip. The immature males show roughly the same colours.

In the adult female the iris is pale yellow and the bill horny yellow, anterior half tinged with orange. The remainder is as in the male; the immature females have the bill either horny mottled with brown and yellow, or bright yellow, with the base of the lower mandible horny.

The range and migrations of the Himalayan Starling appear to be very imperfectly known. Hartert (Vog. Pal. Fauna, I, 45) states that it breeds in the Himalayas from Cashmere to Nepal and in the N. W. Punjab, wintering in the plains of N. W. India. That it breeds in Cashmere has long been well known, and it undoubtedly breeds in the valley of Peshawar (cf. N. E. 2nd ed. I. 369). But I cannot trace the authority for the further extension of its breeding range eastward. It certainly does not breed in the Kangra Valley, Kulu, Lahul, Spiti, the Simla hills, or British Gahrwal. Although I have paid particular attention to the masses of Starlings which visit the Punjab in winter I have only met with this race in small numbers in the Kangra valley and in the district of Jhelum: here a

small marked passage passed through from the middle of September until the middle of October, and apparently returned about the middle of February: they became abundant by the end of that month, decreased by the end of March, and only a few remained as late as April.

Common Mynah.—*Acridotheres tristis* (L).

Observed commonly throughout my stay in Srinagar and all along the road on both journeys.

The Golden Oriole.—*Oriolus oriolus kundoo*, Sykes.

The Golden Oriole is only a summer visitor to Srinagar and was not observed until April 20th after which it quickly became abundant. Several of last year's nests were noted in the trees about the European quarter.

The Rufous-backed shrike.—*Lanius schach erythronotus* (Vig.)

The Rufous backed shrike is certainly one of the commonest and most characteristic birds of Srinagar; it is found everywhere, in the fields and orchards, in gardens and villages, and particularly in the poplars that thickly border all the roads, while individuals visit the reeds-beds of the Dhal lake. It occurs of course in the Murree hills and I presume also in all the hills between Kohala and Baramullah, but their numbers there do not strike one in the same way as after Baramullah is left and the poplars start with a Shrike to every couple of hundred yards or so. On my first arrival the birds did not appear to be paired but courting commenced with the first fine weather and nidification was in full swing by the end of April though I did not actually obtain any eggs before my departure. Like many of the genus this Shrike is a great mimic and songster.

The Short-billed Minivet.—*Pericrocotus brevirostris* (Vig.).

Observed in small numbers, at first in parties and latterly singly or in pairs, throughout my stay in Srinagar.

The Cashmere Red-breasted Flycatcher.—*Muscicapa parva hyperythra* (Cab.).

This Flycatcher was first observed on April 14th on which date two specimens were obtained in a willow grove by the Dhal lake. For the rest of the month it was observed in small numbers about gardens and orchards, although only males were seen. After May 1st no individual was seen until May 10th on which date a female was shot and a second seen. One or two individuals were seen from the motor during the first stages of the journey down on May 12th. The behaviour and habits are similar to those of *M. parva parva* in the plains, but the upward jerk of the tail is more noticeable owing to the greater length of the feathers. The call note is indistinguishable from that of *M. superciliaris*.

Seven males preserved yield the following measurements:—bill from skull 12·5–13·5; wing 65·5–69·5; tail 49–54; tarsus 17·5–19. The only female obtained measures:—bill from skull 13·5 mm.: wing 67·5; tail 50·5; tarsus 18·5. All the above had the organs slightly developed and were somewhat fat. The colour of the soft parts was as follows:—iris dark brown; mouth yellow; bill yellow, upper mandible brown (males), dark brown, basal half of lower mandible yellowish (female); legs sooty brown, soles dull olive (males), black (female).

The White-eyebrowed Blue Flycatcher.—*Muscicapa, superciliaris* Jerd.

First observed on April 17th when a male was feeding about the rocks of the summit of the Takht-i-Suliman. After this it became fairly common and remained so until my departure on May 12th, being often found in company with the last species. It was I presume on migration.

The Rufous-tailed Flycatcher.—*Alseonax ruficaudus* (Swains).

A single individual was seen in an orchard on May 1st.

The Slaty-blue Flycatcher.—*Muscicapa tricolor* (Hodgs.).

A female was shot in a grove of fruit trees on May 10th where it was hawking about the boughs in company with *M. superciliaris* and *M. hyperythra*.

The Rufous-bellied Niltava—*Niltava sundara*, Hodgs.

I am practically certain that I saw a male of this species on the embankment of the Chenar Bagh on April 12th.

The Paradise Flycatcher—*Tchitreia paradisi paradisi* (L.).

With the exception of an adult male seen on April 6th no Paradise Flycatcher was seen until April 14th. After that date the species was common about Srinagar until my departure and I saw several about the road on my downward journey.

The White-capped Redstart—*Chaimarrornis leucocephala* (Vig.).

One or two were seen along the Jhelum river on April 1st between Kohala and Domel.

The Plumbeous Redstart—*Chaimarrornis fuliginosa fuliginosa* (Vig.).

Observed fairly commonly on April 1st about the banks of the Jhelum river from mile 25 onwards to about Uri. On the return journey of 12th May one was seen near Uri.

The Indian Black Redstart—*Phoenicurus ochruros phoenicuroides* (Moore).

A few individual Redstarts were seen as follows, in every case at the foot of the Takht-i-Suliman, or of the hill behind it:—April 17th one male; April 27th a male and female; April 28th one male; May 10th two females.

The Blue-headed Redstart—*Phoenicurus coeruleocephala* (Vig.).

A few were observed both on April 20th and 29th in a nullah at about 7,500-8,000 feet elevation on the hill behind the Gupkar corner.

The Blue Rock Thrush—*Monticola solitarius pandoo* (Sykes).

First observed on April 20th but it had perhaps been overlooked as by the end of the month pairs were fairly common on the bare hillsides in that area between about 5,500 feet and 8,000 feet, which for the most part was so wanting in bird life.

The House Sparrow—*Passer domesticus parkini*, Whistler.

On arrival in Srinagar I was immediately struck by the marked difference of the House Sparrows from the common *Passer d. indicus* of the Plains, I was therefore careful to collect a small series which were compared in England with the series of sparrows in the Tring Museum and in Dr. Ticehurst's and my own collections; this confirmed my opinion and the birds were described (Bull. B. O. C., xli, 13, 1920) as *Passer domesticus parkini*, with the type locality Srinagar. It is distinguished from *indicus* by the richer chestnut of the mantle, scapulars, and lesser wing coverts, and by the considerably larger size and heavier bill; bill from skull 14-15; wing 77.5-83 (majority over 80); tail 57-62.5; tarsus 18.5-20 mm. The female differs from the female of *indicus* only in the larger size and heavier bill: wing 75-78.5; tail 53-61 mm. The range of this new race has not yet been fully worked out; but it occurs at Bampur, Karman, Shiraz, Bushire (in winter), Afghanistan, and probably Baluchistan. It is I think the breeding bird of Lahul and Spiti. It is a migratory species and in winter visits the plains of Sindh and the Punjab, and possibly further south and east.

The Common Rose-finch—*Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus* (Hodgs.).

A few parties, on migration, were met with from April 28th up till the date of my departure.

The Himalayan Gold-finch—*Carduelis caniceps caniceps*, Vig.

The Himalayan Gold-finch was very common throughout my stay in Srinagar, occurring in flocks which had not fully broken up even as late as May 12th. These flocks were found largely about the lower slopes of the hills, feeding on the ground amongst the boulders, or visiting the orchard and groves in the neighbourhood. The huge Chenar trees were also much frequented by the birds which doubtless feed in the seeds remaining in the "ball".

Four males and two females preserved yield the following measurements in millimetres :—

	<i>Bill from skull.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Tarsus.</i>
Males ..	16·5—17	79·5—81	49·5—51·5	14·5—15
Females ..	15·5	77·5—78·5	48—49·5	14·5

In the May birds the organs were but partly enlarged. The females differ in plumage from the males only in the smaller extent of the red area about the base of the bill. The colour of the soft parts was in both sexes as follows :—iris dark brown ; mouth white ; bill fleshy white, sometimes tipped with brown ; legs fleshy brown.

The Gold-fronted Finch—*Serinus pusillus* (Pall.)

It was with particular pleasure that I first found this species on April 20th, as it had been for some years a special object of my search, and I was afraid that it would have left the Srinagar Valley before my arrival. On that day I found two large flocks at about 6,000 feet in a large open nullah of the line of hills behind Srinagar. These flocks were rather loose and straggling in character, the birds breaking away from or rejoining the others freely when disturbed. The ground that they were on was without trees, but covered with bushes and coarse herbage growing amongst a litter of boulders ; on settling they rapidly fluttered down to feed on the seed heads of the grass and other coarse herbage, or on the ground. In manner and demeanour they were very reminiscent of Gold-finches, and indeed a few days later I met with a mixed flock of both kinds considerably lower down, almost on the level of the plain, where they were feeding on an open stretch of short turf thickly covered with stones. Although shy and restless the two birds are easily differentiated in the field ; the Gold-fronted Finch appears very dark with a blackish looking head, and at a near approach the golden poll shines very brightly in the sun. The note is a clear double call, distinctive in character, but hard to describe ; the song is hardly more than a shrill warbling twitter, a more sustained version of the call note.

These flocks continued to frequent the same nullah for a few days but had apparently broken up or moved away by the 29th April ; on that date I looked for them without success, although a few individuals were singing in the undergrowth about a small stream which ran down one side of the nullah.

Later, on May 4th, I found that about a dozen birds were frequenting a line of willow trees planted along a water channel on another part of the same range of hills, and these birds were in the same place on May 7th. Five specimens were obtained in all and in view of the comparative rarity of this bird in collections it may be as well to place their measurements on record.

<i>No. Sex.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Bill from skull.</i>	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Tarsus.</i>	
3224 ♂	20 April	9	75	57	15	Millimetres.
3237 ♂ ?	24 April	10·5	75·5	54·5	15·5	„
3266 ♂	4 May	10	76	55·5	15·5	„
3265 ♂	..	10	75·5	54	15	„
3284 ♂	7 May	10·5	76	53·5	15	„

No. 3224 is clearly an immature bird as the whole top of the head is a dull rufescent brown, faintly streaked with sooty black. The ear coverts are dull rufescent brown. The remainder of the plumage is similar to that of the adult males. There is some variation in the depth of colour of the gold poll in the adult birds, but this appears purely individual. The organs were minute in all the birds except that in No. 3284 they were very slightly enlarged. The soft parts are constant in colours as follows :—iris brown ; mouth whitish ; bill horny blackish, legs black. Nos. 3224, 3265 and 3266 show slight traces of moult about the head.

The White-capped Bunting—*Emberiza stewarti*, Blyth.

The White-capped Bunting was very common along the road from Kohala to Baramullah, and about the slopes of the Takht-i-Suliman and the range of hills

behind it, where they were preparing to nest. I did not however see it on the Srinagar plain away from the hills. It is a matter of surprise to me that although I kept a careful watch over all the Buntings seen I could not detect a single specimen of *Emberiza cia stracheyi* amongst the numbers of this species.

The Grey-headed Bunting—*Emberiza fucata arcuata*, Sharpe.

On April 24th some seven or eight of these Buntings were found on the ground described above as the haunt of *Serinus pusillus*. They were rather shy and kept very much to the ground moving about amongst the herbage and I failed to secure a specimen.

The Swallow—*Hirundo rustica rustica*, L.

Throughout the journey of April 1st and 2nd the Swallow was observed in loose parties, in the hilly portion of the road often in company with the next species, hawking about the vicinity of the river. At Srinagar it was most abundant and curiously tame, settling within a few feet of the heads of passers-by in the verandahs of crowded places like the post office and the European shops along the Bund. By the middle of the month the birds were building or repairing old nests, some of which were placed in the smallest of native dwellings, so that they were easily within reach from the ground. The very publicity of the sites rendered it difficult to examine most of the nests, but I took a clutch of 5 fresh eggs on May 11th.

The Striated Swallow—*Hirundo daurica* (sub-sp?).

Observed in small numbers on April 1st and 2nd from Kohala to Baramullah, but only about the vicinity of Domel on the return journey of May 12th.

The Crag Martin—*Riparia rupestris* (Scop.)

Three or four individuals were seen over the hill behind Pendreathan on April 20th. On April 27th a large flight were flying around and resting on a rocky cliff of another part of the same range; these birds were apparently on passage, as when disturbed they immediately disappeared and did not return.

The House-martin—*Chelidon urbica* (sub-sp?).

A few were seen hawking over the water-ways of the Dhal lake on May 6th.

The Tree Pipit—*Anthus trivialis harringtoni*, Witherby.

Small parties of Tree Pipits were seen about throughout the month of April, and a male which was shot on 3rd April proved to be of this race.

Hodgson's Pipit—*Anthus roseatus*, Blyth.

Several were observed about the floating gardens of the Dhal lake on April 8th when they were in company with Yellow-headed Wagtails. Two were seen in a ploughed field on April 23rd. Several pairs in breeding plumage were also seen usually near water, about the last week of April and into May.

The Brown Rock-Pipit—*Anthus sordidus jerdoni*, Finsch.

The Brown Rock Pipit was common about the Takht-i-Suliman and the bare lower slopes of the range of hills behind it, about 6,000 feet. Here they were in pairs and obviously about to breed, the courting flight being seen as early as April 9th.

The Grey Wagtail—*Motacilla cinerea melanope*, Pall.

A single bird was seen on April 5th. No more were seen until April 13th after which the species became fairly common on passage until about the end of the month, after which only two were seen, on May 8th.

The Cashmere White Wagtail—*Motacilla alba hodgsoni*, Blyth.

This handsome Wagtail was first seen on the upward journey of April 2nd about mile 48. In Srinagar it was common, but kept for the most part to the neighbourhood of the river and the Dhal lake where it was particularly partial

to the house boats, being usually seen on their roofs; some might always be seen at the Dhal Darwaza feeding busily on the lumps of floating refuse which were continually being swept down by the fall of water. It was occasionally met with, sometimes in the company of other Wagtails, on flooded pastures. Pairs were seen carrying nesting material on April 22nd and May 3rd and in the former case the nest site was an old box on the roof of a house boat. On two occasions I saw the courting display; in this the cock shuffled round the hen, with the tail and wing nearest the latter spread out and sloped downwards, so that the upper surfaces were presented to the object of his affections.

Three males and three females were preserved and yield the following measurements:—

	Bill from skull.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
Males ..	17.5—18 mm	91—96	89—94	24.5—25
Females ..	17.5—18.5 mm.	87—93.5	84.5—90	23.5—25.5

The three males and one female appear to be full adults, and are practically identical in plumage except that the female has the pure black of the back somewhat sullied with ashy grey. All four birds have recently moulted the central pair of tail feathers. The other two females appear to be in their first summer plumage and have not moulted the central tail feathers. In both the back is ashy grey, somewhat mottled with black. All six birds were about to breed this year by the condition of the organs. The soft parts are:—iris dark brown; bill and legs black; mouth, blackish in males, tongue slaty-grey, in females fleshy or blackish livid.

The Masked Wagtail—*Motacilla alba personata*, Gld.

Observed occasionally for the greater part of April but I did not make very accurate notes on the appearance of this race, owing to the difficulty of distinguishing it in the field from some phases of *M. a. hodgsoni*.

The White Wagtail—*Motacilla alba alba*, L.

Occasional specimens of the White Wagtail were seen throughout the first half of April; two were seen as late as April 23rd and one of these last birds was secured. It is a male in summer plumage and is not distinguishable from European examples of this race.

The Yellow-headed Wagtail—*Motacilla citreola citreola*, Pall.

Met with in small numbers on various dates from April 13th to May 5th.

Hodgson's Yellow Wagtail—*Motacilla citreola calcaratus*, Hodgs.

Met with in small numbers on various dates from April 18th to May 6th.

§ The Cashmere Blue-throat—*Luscinia suecica abbotti* (Richm.).

Blue-throats, obviously on passage, were seen as follows:—April 4th two single birds, one in a garden and one in a willow grove, but not clearly identified were apparently Blue-throats; April 17th one amongst boulders at the foot of the Takht-i-Suliman; April 20th one seen; April 22nd one or two in the same place as on April 17th; April 28th one in the same place; May 4th one in an orchard tree. The last bird, a male, was shot and proves to be of the above-named race, to which presumably the other birds also belonged.

The Himalayan Ruby-throat—*Luscinia pectoralis* (Gould).

A female was shot on April 29th in a small bush—covered ravine with running water on the lower slopes of the range of hills behind Pendreathan.

The Magpie Robin—*Copsychus saularis* (L.).

Several were seen along the road about Garhi both on April 2nd and May 12th.

The Pied Wheatear—*Oenanthe picata* (Blyth).

A male was seen on April 9th on the boulder-strewn base of the hill near Pendreathan.

The White-capped Wheatear—*Oenanthe capistrata* (Gould).

A male was seen at the base of the above range, but further along in the direction of the P. W. D. quarries on April 27th. A female Wheatear seen in the same direction on April 19th was also attributed to this species.

The Stone-chat—*Saxicola torquata indica*, Blyth.

On the upward journey of April 1st and 2nd the Stone-chat was observed throughout the road from Kohala upward and for the first half of April it was common about the fields and gardens about Srinagar. These birds were evidently on passage and had gone by the end of the month leaving only those birds on the lower slopes of the range of hills behind Srinagar which were about to breed between 5,500 feet and about 7,000 feet, and which had been present at the same time as the migrating birds in the fields below. A good deal of variation was observable in the colouration of the birds, some of the males appearing more uniformly black and white than others, and I regret that the limited time at my disposal did not allow me to collect a series for examination.

The Pied Bush-chat—*Saxicola caprata bicolor*, Sykes.

Abundant in the hills along the road from Kohala to Baramullah on both April 1st and 2nd and May 12th, but not observed at Srinagar.

The Iron-grey Bush-chat—*Oreicola ferrea ferrea* (Gray).

A male was seen at Garhi on April 2nd. One or two individuals, which might however have been only a single pair, were noted about the bund during the first half of April. A male was seen near the Takht on April 15th.

The Altai Accentor—*Prunella himalayanus* (Blyth).

A flock of some 15 to 20 of these Accentors was met with on the Takht-i Suliman on April 17th.

The Black-throated Accentor—*Prunella albigularis* (Brandt).

An Accentor was seen on the hillside by the Peri Mahal on April 15th which was apparently of this species.

Jerdon's Accentor—*Prunella strophiatius jerdoni* (Brooks).

A female was shot on April 29th in the same ravine and near the same place as the specimen of *Luscinia pectoralis*.

The Himalayan Whistling Thrush—*Myiophoneus temmincki temmincki* Vig.

Common along the road from Kohala to Baramullah on both April 1st and 2nd and May 12th. Single birds were observed near the Dhal lake on April 14th and April 28th.

Tickell's Ouzel—*Turdus unicolor*, Tickell.

Tickell's Ouzel was exceedingly common in Srinagar and was to be found throughout the gardens and camping grounds of the English quarter, and the willow groves and orchards of the surrounding country, but seldom ventured into the open fields or any distance up the hillsides. In habits and demeanour it resembles the English Song Thrush, and the mellow song was very reminiscent of the countryside at home. Many old nests placed in the forks and holes of trees were attributed to this species, but I did not find any new nest although courting was in full swing by the middle of April. Under its influence the birds became very pugnacious and were continually sparring.

The Black-throated Ouzel—*Turdus ruficollis atrigularis* Temm.

On April 2nd a few were seen along the road in the hill barrier between Gahri and Baramullah. At Srinagar small parties were met on different dates up till April 26th; a single bird was seen on April 29th.

The Himalayan Pied Woodpecker—*Dryobates himalayensis* (Jard. & Selb.).

One was seen on April 11th in a willow grove by the Dhal lake and was heard in the same place some days later.

The Wryneck—*Jynx torquilla japonica*, Bp.

I first observed the Wryneck on April 8th being attracted by the noisy behaviour of a pair in some old trees near the church ; after this the species was common and was frequently to be heard in civil lines, and the surrounding willow groves and orchards ; about the end of April the call was less frequently to be heard but the birds were still about and evidently intending to breed. Two specimens obtained are rather grey in tint.

The Pied Kingfisher—*Ceryle rudis leucomelanura*, Reich.

Observed occasionally on the Dhal lake throughout my stay.

The Common Kingfisher—*Alcedo atthis pallasi*, Rehb.

Kingfishers were exceedingly abundant in Srinagar throughout my stay. Their main stronghold was of course the confused labyrinth of plots of cultivation, floating gardens, and small channels, which lie between the Jhelum river and the Dhal lake, and to a lesser extent break up the margins of the lake itself. To thread this labyrinth in a "Shikara" was to meet with an endless succession of these beautiful birds, here sitting motionless on some bough close to the passing boat, there flying before it in fright uttering the familiar hard sharp squeak which is the call of the species. To leave the neighbourhood of the lake was not however to part with Kingfishers ; anywhere throughout the surrounding plain small pools and dykes provided their quota, and even for a short distance up the hill sides occasional birds might be seen, attracted by some suitable nesting site on the face of the slope.

On my arrival the birds were already in pairs and many nest-holes were apparently ready for eggs : yet I was unable to find any hole containing eggs until May 8th on which date I took 7 fresh eggs from a burrow which had been found as early as April 8th, when the pair had been very noisy and tame, and apparently courting.

It is well known how dirty the burrows of this species become after the young are hatched, but it was new to me to discover that the entrance tunnel starts to grow dirty with the excreta of the parent birds, before the eggs are even laid.

Six adult specimens were preserved and their measurements are as follows :—

No.	Sex.	Date.	Bill f. skull.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
3198	♂	11th April	47	73	33·5	10·5
3221	♂	19th April	46·5	74	34	10
3240	♂	25th April	47·5	74	34	10
3225	♀	21st April	45·5	72	34·5	8·5
3241	♀	25th April	42·5	75·5	35·5	9·5
3287	♀	8th May	45	77	33·5	9

The sexes are alike in plumage : as regards the soft parts the dark brown iris the salmon mouth and the orange red feet with dusky claws are alike in both sexes. The bill is however very variable as follows :—

No. 3198 Black.

No. 3221 Blackish horn, a streak of salmon along sides of lower mandible.

No. 3240 Black, base of lower M. horny.

No. 3225 Blackish horn above, salmon horn below.

No. 3241 Upper mandible purplish brown, anterior half black ; lower salmon red.

No. 3287 Black, gape and lower surface salmon.

The clutch of seven eggs which were taken measure respectively :—21 x 17·5, 21 17, 21 x 17·5, 21 x 17·5, 20·5 x 17·5, 20·5 x 17·5, 20·5 x 17, mm.

The European Bee-eater—*Merops apiaster*, L.

The first Bee-eaters of the season were observed on April 22nd when a party of 8 were seen passing over head by the Gupkar gap, and a similar party was seen next day. By the end of the month the species had become common, their

main stronghold being the open ground about the base of the Takht and the hills behind it. Numbers might also be seen over the reed beds of the Dhal lake. It is strange that I saw no Bee-eaters about the road on the return journey of May 12th.

The Hoopoe—*Upupa epops epops*, L.

On April 2nd we found the Hoopoe common as soon as we entered the plains at Baramullah and it was most abundant at Srinagar throughout my stay. About the end of April the birds were evidently preparing to nest in trees and in the walls of Kashmiri houses but I did not examine any nests.

The Cuckoo—*Cuculus canorus*, L.

The Cuckoo was heard calling once on each of the following dates, April 21st, April 26th and May 1st.

The Common Swift—*Cypselus apus*, L.

Observed as follows:—one over the summit of the Pendreathan hill on April 29th; several over the Dhal lake on May 6th; on the journey of May 12th one near Baramullah, two near Chakoti, and one at Domel.

The Slaty-headed Parrakeet—*Palæornis schisticeps*, Hodgs.

One was seen in a Chenar tree at Srinagar on April 13th. On the downward journey of May 12th several were seen in the hills below Baramullah, and a big flock was flying about the road at Domel.

The Himalayan Wood Owl—*Strix aluco nivicola* (Blyth).

I attribute to this species, which I have not previously met, a fine Owl seen sitting in a willow tree on the bund on April 10th and 11th. The remains of an owl which had been killed and eaten in some fir trees on a hillside was apparently of the same species.

The Lammergaier—*Gypætus barbatus grandis*, Storr.

Compared with the abundance of this grand bird about many of the hill stations the Lammergaier seemed very scarce in Cashmere. One was seen on both journeys, on April 2nd and May 12th in the hills between Ghari and Uri. At Srinagar I saw only a single example, on April 27th and April 29th, over the hill behind the P. W. D. stone quarry.

The Himalayan Griffon Vulture—*Gyps fulvus himalayensis*, Hume.

Observed in small numbers at Srinagar and about the road on both journeys.

The Egyptian Vulture—*Neophron percnopterus percnopterus* (L.).

Seen at Gahri on April 1st. At Srinagar one or two pairs were to be met about the neighbourhood of the Takht and the range of hills behind it, but the species was not common. On April 20th a nest containing eggs could be seen on a ledge of rock in a very narrow and precipitous gully at about 8,000 feet, but the site was quite inaccessible without the use of ropes.

Pallas's Fishing Eagle—*Haliaëtus leucoryphus* Pall.

A pair or possibly more were frequenting the neighbourhood of the Jhelum river just above Srinagar and were seen on various dates from April 21st until my departure.

The Booted Eagle—*Hieraëtus pennatus* Gmel.

A small species of Raptor which I doubtfully identify with this species was occasionally met with during the latter half of April, always in the neighbourhood of the river.

The Shahin Falcon—*Falco peregrinus peregrinator*, Sundev,

On April 16th a Wagtail that I had wounded on the camping ground near the rifle ranges was nearly taken by a Falcon which appeared by its flight and size to be a female Shahin.

The Hobby—*Falco subbuteo*, L.

A party of 3 or 4 Hobbies were watched for some time on April 29th when they were soaring and playing about the bare summit, roughly 8,500 feet, of the hill behind Pendreathan. A small Falcon which was soaring over the river by the Post Office on the evening of May 4th was also, I think, of this species.

The Kestrel—*Falco tinnunculus*, L.

One or two were seen throughout the journey on April 1st and 2nd. One was seen on the return journey at Domel on May 12th.

At Srinagar occasional individuals were seen throughout the month of April.

The Larger Kite—*Milvus melanotis*, Temm. & Schl.

On the journey up on April 2nd I noticed the first nests of this Kite about the neighbourhood of Rampur, and they became more numerous as Srinagar was approached. In Srinagar the birds were common and the nests were not easy to secure as the majority of them were placed in the huge smooth limbed Chenar trees in situations that no climber could reach without ropes and ladders. These nests were for the most part very large solid structures, possibly added to from year to year, two or three times the size of the majority of the nests built in the plains by the common *Milvus govinda*.

A few nests were found in mulberry trees, at a comparatively low height, and these nests were but small and untidy. Two or three nests were also found in poplar trees.

The following clutches of eggs were actually taken. (The measurements in millimetres are appended):—

April 7th : one fresh egg (nest not seen), 54·5 × 44·5.

April 9th : c/3 moderately incubated eggs taken from the side bough of a huge Chenar tree, only reached with rope and ladder after an hour's work. Nest large and massive. 59·5 × 46, 57·5 × 47, 56 × 48.

April 13th : c/2 moderately incubated eggs taken from one of three small mulberry trees growing on a small island in the middle of the Dhal lake. The nest was small and shallow and thickly lined with dirty rags and fragments of rubbish. 56 × 45 : 58 × 44·5.

April 13th : c/2 fresh eggs taken from a small nest on the summit of a medium sized mulberry tree. 55·5 × 44·5, 58·5 × 43.

April 19th : c/2 fresh eggs taken from a comparatively small and untidy nest built about 30 feet from the ground on the side bough of a small Chenar tree in a small farm yard on the river bank. Both birds came soaring round and attacked the climber in a very determined manner, stooping right through the branches at him, and on one occasion actually drawing blood from his scalp. 56·5 × 44·5, 57·5 × 45.

April 23rd : c/2 fresh eggs taken from a rather large nest built about 35 to 40 feet from the ground in one of a row of poplar trees on the golf course.

In Srinagar the Larger Kite is in no sense a jungle Kite but occupies exactly the place of *Milvus govinda* in the plains of the Punjab ; it is not however so numerous. The greater size and the white wing patches are very marked in most of the birds, but there are of course a large number of individuals which would hardly be distinguishable from the common species.

The Marsh Harrier—*Circus æruginosus* (L.)

Single examples of the Marsh Harrier were seen on April 13th, April 19th and April 30th.

The Blue Rock Dove—*Columba livia*, Bonnaterra.

Seen in small numbers, mostly about the hills, but no specimens were collected for subspecific identification.

The Indian Turtle Dove—*Streptopelia orientalis meena* (Sykes).

One was seen about 8,000 feet near the summit of the hill behind Pendreathan on April 20th. Several were seen about the orchards and willow groves on April 25th and 28th and these were clearly migrating birds.

The Collared Turtle Dove—*Streptopelia decaocto, decaocto* (Frev.)

This familiar Dove was not seen until April 20th after which date the species rapidly became common.

The Spotted Dove—*Streptopelia suratensis suratensis* (Gm).

This Dove was not noted on my journey into Cashmere, nor in Srinagar; but on the return journey of May 12th it was found to be fairly common from Uri downwards.

The Snow-Cock—*Tetraogallus himalayensis*, G. R. Gray.

A pair were seen on April 20th at about 8,000 feet on the summit of the range of hills behind Srinagar. They were being pursued by a large Eagle, possibly Bonelli's Eagle, but the pursuit passed rapidly beyond my ken and the result remained unknown.

The Chukor Partridge—*Alectoris græca chukar* (Gray).

The Chukor Partridge was common enough on the range of hills behind Srinagar from about 6,000 feet upwards, but it was comparatively even more abundant on the Takht-i-Suliman; there the sacred traditions of the hill save the birds from molestation, and they have benefitted accordingly.

The Black-Partridge—*Francolinus vulgaris*, Steph.

Heard near Garhi on May 12th.

The Water-hen—*Gallinula chloropus* (L.)

The Water-hen appears to be a summer visitor to the Dhal lake as I only saw a single bird there (on April 13th) before April 25th on which date the species had become very numerous.

The Pheasant-tailed Jacana—*Hydrophasianus chirurgus* (Scop.)

Several were seen on May 8th about the marshes which lie on the southern side of the river near the Rifle Range. None were seen on the Dhal lake.

The Red-wattled Lapwing—*Sarcogrammus indicus* (Bodd.)

One was seen on April 6th at Srinagar.

The Black and White Stilt—*Himantopus candidus*, Bonn.

One was seen on April 16th on some flooded fields near the Rifle Range.

The Green Sandpiper—*Tringa ochropus*, L.

The Green Sandpiper was observed fairly common about the Happy Valley throughout the entire period of my stay in Cashmere.

The Common Sand-piper—*Tringa hypoleucus*, L.

This Sand-piper was observed occasionally about the Jhelum river on various dates from April 5th to May 5th.

The Wood Sandpiper—*Tringa glareola*, L.

A small number were observed about the marshes south of the river near the Rifle Range on both April 16th and May 8th.

The Common Heron—*Ardea cinerea*, L.

Observed in small numbers about Srinagar throughout my stay. Some were seen on the river near mile 94 on April 2nd.

The Night Heron—*Nycticorax nycticorax* (L.).

Observed as follows:—one in a line of osiers on the Dhal lake on April 25th; one or two about the Dhal lake on May 6th; one or two about the Mar Canal on May 9th.

The Blackheaded Gull—*Larus ridibundus*, L.

On May 6th a party of some 20 Gulls in full breeding plumage with dark masks were seen on the Dhal lake, from whence they moved off towards the river. No specimen was obtained but there can be no doubt that they were of this species which I obtained at Jhelum in March 1914 when some numbers were moving up the Jhelum river on migration to their breeding quarters on the Salt lakes of Western Tibet.

The Whiskered Tern—*Hydrochelidon leucopareia indica* (Steph.).

The Whiskered Tern did not arrive until the end of April when I first saw a party flying down the river on the 30th of the month. Several were observed during the following days and when I visited Nasim Bagh by boat on May 6th numbers were observed fishing over the Dhal lake, especially over patches of weed. All were in full breeding plumage. The birds remained common until my departure on May 12th when they were observed in some numbers about the flooded fields of the Happy Valley as far as Baramullah ; none were seen below this.

The call is a harsh grating version of the syllable " Creak".

The Little Grebe—*Podiceps ruficollis capensis*, Salvad.

Three or four Dabchicks were seen on some ponds near the Baramullah road on April 8th. Single birds were seen on the Dhal lake on April 25th and May 6th.
